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Curios and Relics

Tools

Surgical Tools

Gift from Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

MEMENTO OF LINCOLN OWNED BY DR. RALPH SHELDON OF LYONS

**Set Of Surgical Instruments
Presented To Health Offic-
er's Father, Dr. Andrew F.
Sheldon, Is Priceless Relic;
Great Emancipator His
Personal Friend.**

Intimate memories of Abraham Lincoln are vividly recalled each year around the birthday event of the great president and emancipator by Dr. Ralph Sheldon, Lyons physician and health officer. Dr. Sheldon's father, the late Dr. Andrew F. Sheldon of Lyons, was a personal friend of Lincoln and he saw much of the sad figure while he was stationed in charge of the famous Campbell's Hospital in Washington for two years before the close of the Civil War.

On the afternoon of the night that President Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theater by John Wilkes Booth, President Lincoln presented in person to Dr. Andrew F. Sheldon, then an officer in the Medical Corps of the Federal Army, a fine set of surgical instruments from friends of the army officer. Dr. Ralph Sheldon has kept this set of instruments in excellent condition since the day his father died a number of years ago. Every type of surgical instrument used in the civil war days was embodied in the set.

Dr. Sheldon's father often told him of his personal contacts with President Lincoln. The elder Sheldon said that Mr. Lincoln would frequently walk from the White House to the hospital, accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln, a distance of about two miles. Upon these and other occasions, Mr. Lincoln would always walk a short distance ahead of his wife intentionally in order not to attract the attention of the public to the vast difference in height between himself and Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Lincoln being short in stature while the President was exceptionally tall.

President Lincoln on more than one occasion told the medical officer that he took a great deal of comfort in calling at the hospital where he could cheer up the large number of wounded Federal soldiers. Dr. Andrew Sheldon was present in the house opposite Ford's Theater where Lincoln was taken after he was shot and where he breathed his last.

